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Ta Kung Pao.

OUTLINES AIMS OF COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Cooperative agriculture is a bridge from feudalistic individualistic agriculture to socialistic collectivization. It is very important in unifying the individualistic farmers. It can eliminate commercial middlemen and loan sharks. Agriculture must be collectivized to speed progress and prevent exploitation.

The People's Democracy in China is the passageway to the socialist state. After land reform is carried out, the next step is to change individualistic production to collective production.

In China, the family has been the economic unit, the basis of a feudalistic economy resulting in perpetual poverty. Consequently, cooperative and mutual help programs are especially needed. Cooperation in farm labor can result in a 50 to 100 percent increase in agricultural production. Collectivism has succeeded in Russia and will succeed in China with adequate promotion.

In areas where labor is short, cooperative agricultural operations will save sufficient labor for achieving optimum results. In areas where labor is more plentiful, cooperative activity will release labor to engage in side lines, thus increasing the farmer's income, raising the standard of living, and readily demonstrating its advantages. Such a program, while representing a step forward, does not dislocate the old customs and habits enough to arouse opposition to it.

Supply and distribution cooperatives should be promoted on a large scale among the masses. They will prevent farmers from being mulated by the marchant class as they have been when selling and buying for themselves. The middleman's profits are eliminated.

It is impossible to make drastic changes all at once in an age-old system. A beginning must be made with an easy plan that meets the most evident needs. This will establish confidence and lead to voluntary participation and good Cultivation cooperatives can then be organized and eventually all operations may be collectivized,

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The results of these plans now being carried out in areas which have been liberated for a relatively long time have been eminently satisfactory. In Shensi production has doubled. The success achieved in conquering drought in North China has been due to this program. The chairman of the Agricultural Department of the North China People's Government reports that 40 to 50 percent of agricultural labor has been enrolled in cooperatives. Supply and distribution cooperatives have been very successful in North China and the Northeast.

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